

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A web page acquisition service system, said system comprising:

a web page acquisition server and a user terminal, both of which are connected to a communication network, wherein said user terminal transmits to said web page acquisition server a web page acquisition requests that includes various acquisition conditions; wherein said web page acquisition server generates a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of user terminals; wherein, in accordance with said acquisition conditions included in said web page acquisition request received from said user terminal and at least one predetermined scheduling rule, said web page acquisition server acquires a web page source from a web server on said communication network and transmits said web page source to said user terminal; and wherein said web page source is formed into a library file that, in accordance with said web page acquisition request, is obtained and held in said web page acquisition server, and is transmitted to said user terminal; wherein, when said web page acquisition server receives from the plurality of user terminals a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page, said web page acquisition server obtains and archives, utilizing a single request to a web server and according to the

integrated list, a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of user terminals, and transmits said web page source to said user terminals that issued said web page acquisition requests.

2. **(Original)** The web page acquisition service system according to claim 1, wherein, as one of said acquisition conditions included in said web page acquisition request, said user terminal designates a time condition for the acquisition of a web page source; and

wherein, in accordance with said time condition designated in said web page acquisition request, said web page acquisition server acquires said web page source and transmits said web page source to said user terminal.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The web page acquisition service system according to claim 2,

wherein said web page acquisition server performs scheduling for the acquisition of a web page source, while taking into account said time condition that is designated in said web page acquisition request and a current amount equivalent to a volume of the communication traffic carried by said communication network.

4. **(Original)** The web page acquisition service system according to claim 1,

wherein, as one of said acquisition conditions included in said web page acquisition request, said user terminal designates a time limited period for the acquisition of a web page source; and

wherein, during said designated time limited period contained in said web page acquisition request, said web page acquisition server acquires and transmits, to said user terminal, said web page source.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Currently Amended)** A provider for providing a service for the acquisition of an Internet connection, said provider comprising:

a request acceptance unit for accepting from a user a web page acquisition requests that includes a web page acquisition condition, wherein said request acceptance unit generates a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

a web page acquisition/archiving unit for obtaining a web page source from a web server and for archiving said web page source in accordance with said web page acquisition condition included in said web page acquisition request and at least one predetermined scheduling rule; and

a transmission control unit for, in accordance with said web page acquisition condition, transmitting said obtained web page source to the user who issued said web page acquisition request;

wherein said transmission control unit forms into a library file said web page source that, in accordance with said web page acquisition request, is obtained and held in said web page acquisition/archiving unit, and transmits said library file to said user terminal;

wherein, when said web page acquisition/archiving unit receives from the plurality of user terminals a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page, said web page acquisition/archiving unit obtains and archives, utilizing a single request to a web server and according to the integrated list, a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users terminals, and transmits said web page source to said users.

**7. (Cancelled)**

**8. (Previously Presented)** The provider according to claim 6, wherein when a limitation is placed on the size of a data file that said user terminal, which is a web page source transmission destination, can receive as a single transmission, said transmission control unit divides, into segments having an appropriate size for said user terminal, said web page source that is held in said web page acquisition/archiving unit, and forms said segments into library files.

9. **(Original)** The provider according to claim 6, wherein said transmission control unit changes a link for said web page source held by said web page acquisition/archiving unit from an absolute link, based on the URL of a web page source, into a relative link.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A web page acquisition method employed by a web page acquisition server provided on a communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting, from a user, a web page acquisition requests that includes a web page acquisition condition;

generating a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

employing said web page acquisition condition and at least one predetermined scheduling rule to prepare a schedule for the acquisition of a web page source;

acquiring, across said communication network in accordance with said schedule, said web page source from said web server, and archiving said web page source; and

transmitting said web page source to said user in accordance with said web page acquisition condition included in said web page acquisition request;

wherein transmitting includes forming said web page source into a library file that, in accordance with said web page acquisition request, is obtained and held in said web page acquisition server, and transmitting said library file to said user;

wherein, when said web page acquisition server receives from the plurality of users a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page, said web page acquisition server obtains and archives, utilizing a single request to a web server and according to the integrated list, a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users, and transmits said web page source to said users.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The web page acquisition method according to claim 10, wherein said step of preparing said schedule includes a step of:

determining in accordance with a time condition that is included in said web page acquisition request, and while taking into account a current amount equivalent to a volume of the communication traffic across said communication network, the time at which to acquire said web page source designated in said web page acquisition request, and to thereby reduce the load imposed on said web page acquisition server.

12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Currently Amended)** A web page acquisition method, employed by an information terminal device connected to the Internet, comprising the steps of:

transmitting, to a provider, a web page acquisition requests in which web page acquisition conditions are designated;

generating a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

issuing a web page transmission request to said provider based on a time condition that is included in said web page acquisition conditions and at least one predetermined scheduling rule; and

receiving a web page source that, in accordance with said web page transmission request, is transmitted by said provider and that was acquired under conditions corresponding to those included in said web page acquisition conditions;

wherein said web page source is formed into a library file that, in accordance with said web page transmission request, is transmitted to said information terminal device;

wherein, when said information terminal device receives from the plurality of users a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page, said information terminal device obtains and archives, utilizing a single request to a web server and according to the integrated list, a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users, and transmits said web page source to said users.

14. **(Original)** The web page acquisition method according to claim 13, wherein said step for issuing said web page transmission request includes a step of:

issuing, upon the receipt of a notification indicating that a web page has been acquired by said provider, said web page transmission request to said provider, regardless of the time condition that is included in said web page acquisition conditions.

15. **(Original)** The web page acquisition method according to claim 13, wherein at said step of receiving said web page source, said web page source is received in the form of a library file.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A storage medium on which computer input means can store a computer-readable program that permits said computer to perform:

a process for accepting, from a user, a web page acquisition requests that includes a web page acquisition condition;

a process for generating a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

a process for employing said web page acquisition request and at least one predetermined scheduling rule to prepare a schedule for the acquisition of a web page source;

a process for acquiring, across said communication network in accordance with said schedule, said web page source from said web server, and archiving said web page source; and

a process for transmitting said web page source to said user in accordance with said web page acquisition condition included in said web page acquisition request;

wherein said process for transmitting includes forming web page source into a library file that, in accordance with said web page acquisition request, is transmitted to said user;



wherein, when a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page is received from the plurality of users, a single request to a web server is utilized according to the integrated list for obtaining a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users, and said web page source is transmitted to said users.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A program transmission apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a computer-readable program that permits a computer to perform

a process for accepting, from a user, a web page acquisition requests that includes a web page acquisition condition;

a process for generating ~~a~~ an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

a process for employing said web page acquisition request and at least one predetermined scheduling rule to prepare a schedule for the acquisition of a web page source,

a process for acquiring, across said communication network in accordance with said schedule, said web page source from said web server, and archiving said web page source, and

a process for transmitting said web page source to said user in accordance with said web page acquisition condition included in said web page acquisition request;

wherein said process for transmitting includes forming said web page source into a library file that, in accordance with said web page acquisition request, is transmitted to said user; and

transmission means for reading said program from said storage means and for transmitting said program;

wherein, when a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page is received from the plurality of users, a single request to a web server is utilized according to the integrated list for obtaining a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users, and said web page source is transmitted to said users.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for web page acquisition, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting, from a user, a web page acquisition requests that includes a web page acquisition condition;

generating a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

employing said web page acquisition condition and at least one predetermined scheduling rule to prepare a schedule for the acquisition of a web page source;

acquiring, across said communication network in accordance with said schedule, said web page source from said web server, and archiving said web page source; and

transmitting said web page source to said user in accordance with said web page acquisition condition included in said web page acquisition request;

wherein transmitting includes forming said web page source into a library file that, in accordance with said web page acquisition request, is transmitting said library file to said user;

wherein, when a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page is received from the plurality of users, a single request to a web server is utilized according to the integrated list for obtaining a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users, and said web page source is transmitted to said users.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for web page acquisition, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting, to a provider, a web page acquisition requests in which web page acquisition conditions are designated;

generating a an integrated web page acquisition list comprising non-overlapping web page acquisition requests from a plurality of users;

issuing a web page transmission request to said provider based on a time condition that is included in said web page acquisition conditions and at least one predetermined scheduling rule; and

receiving a web page source that, in accordance with said web page transmission request, is transmitted by said provider and that was acquired under conditions corresponding to those included in said web page acquisition conditions;

wherein said web page source is formed into a library file that, in accordance with said web page transmission request, is transmitted to said information terminal device;

wherein, when a plurality of web page acquisition requests for the same page is received from the plurality of users, a single request to a web server is utilized according to the integrated list for obtaining a corresponding web page source for said plurality of requests such that a web page must be requested and obtained only once for the plurality of users, and said web page source is transmitted to said users.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The web page acquisition service according to claim 1,

wherein, said at least one predetermined scheduling rule comprises the acquisition of a web page source occurring during a time period during which a volume of communication traffic is small.